

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 00946 161538 Z

47

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 NIC-01 IO-12 T-03 OMB-01 RSR-01 /122 W
----- 073480

R 161453 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9761
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 0946

E. O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR KN SW DA
SUBJECT: SWEDISH RECOGNITION OF DPRK

REF: SEOUL 1601

BEGIN SUMMARY. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL WITH AUTHORIATIVE
KNOWLEDGE OF GOS VIEWS OF DPRK RECOGNITION SAYS SWEDEN WILL
ANNOUNCE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH DPRK IN EARLY
APRIL. HE SAYS SWEDEN WILL NOT OPEN A MISSION IN PYONGYANG
BUT COVER CAPITAL FROM ANOTHER POST -- PROBABLY PEKING. DPRK
TRADE MISSION IS IN STOCKHOLM THIS WEEK AS A PRELIMINARY TO
RECOGNITION STEPS. END SUMMARY

1. BY COINCIDENCE AT ABOUT SAME TIME ROK FORIEGN MINSTER SPOKE
TO CHARGE SEOUL, CHARGE HERE ENCOUNTERED EKEUS (PRIVATE SECRE-
TARY OF FOREIGN MINISTERWICKMAN) AT SOCIAL OCCASION AND ASKED
HIM ABOUT STATE OF PLAY ON GOS RECOGNITION OF DPRK. EKEUS SAID
PRESENT PLAN WAS TO DISCUSS DPRK RECOGNITION AT END- OF- MARCH
MEETING OF NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTERS AND SWEDEN EXPECTED TO PRO-
CEED TO RECOGNIZE IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER, I. E., EARLY IN APRIL.

2. EKEUS SAID GOS STILL HOPED TO HAVE SEVERAL NORDIC COUNTRIES
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PAGE 02 STOCKH 00946 161538 Z

MOVE MORE OR LESS TOGETHER, BUT NOTHING WAS CERTAIN. SWEDEN MIGHT WIND UP LEADING THE PACK, HE SAID.

3. EKEUS CONFIRMED CHARGE'S INFORMATION THAT A DPRK TRADE MISSION WAS IN STOCKHOLM THIS WEEK. HE CONCEDED THIS WAS PART OF PROCEDURE LEADING TOWARD ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND A DISTASTEFUL PART SO FAR AS SWEDEN WAS CONCERNED. EKEUS SAID THERE IS ALMOST NO BASIS FOR EXPANSION OF NORTH KOREA-SWEDISH COMMERCE AND TRADE MISSION VISIT, WHICH PYONGYANG INSISTED UPON, IS REALLY A WASTE OF TIME. HE SAID GOS WILL NOT OPEN A MISSION IN PYONGYANG AND DPRK WILL BE COVERED BY AN AMBASSADOR ALREADY ON POST - MOST LIKELY SWEDISH AMBASSADOR IN PEKING.

4. CHARGE SAID THAT IN VIEW OF IMMENSE LACK OF ENTHUSIASM EKEUS REFLECTED, HE FOUND IT HARD TO UNDERSTAND WHY GOS WAS PRESSING AHEAD. EKEUS SAID THAT " POLITICALLY SPEAKING" THERE WAS NO TURNING BACK. HE SAID THAT RECOGNITION OF DPRK WAS LAST STEP IN TYDING UP SWEDEN'S RECOGNITION POLICY ON DIVIDED COUNTRIES AND THERE WAS NO ARGUMENT THAT COULD LOGICALLY BE MADE FOR HOLDING UP ON DPRK.

5. CHARGE SAID SWEDEN MIGHT WELL JEOPARDIZE ITS POSITION IN NNSC. EKEUS CONCEDED THIS WAS CORRECT AND THAT POSSIBILITY HAD BEEN CONSIDERED WITHIN GOS BEFORE DECISION WAS MADE TO RECOGNIZE PYONGYANG.

6 COMMENT: WHILE EKEUS IS NOT POLICY- MAKING OFFICIAL, HE HAS AUTHORITATIVE KNOWLEDGE OF FOREIGN MINISTRY AND GOVERNMENT POSITION ON THIS ISSUE. WITH REFERENCE TO PARA 4 REFTEL, EMBASSY CONCLUDES FROM EKEUS COMMENTS THAT GOS HAS CONSIDERED POSSIBLE EXPULSION FROM NNSC, DARED TO GO AHEAD ON RECOGNITION AND PROBABLY WOULD NOT BE DETERRED BY EXPLICIT WARNING.
OLSEN

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